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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061002

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 SSO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00

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APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE
J3-COL. FREDLAND - COL. BAKER
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AIR FORCE - MR. SYNDER
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---------- 105854
O R 271513Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA
INFO JCS WASHDC
DCA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
USACC FT HUACHUCHA ARIZ
CSA WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA
USASATCOMA FT MONMOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061002

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, ET
SUBJECT: DEFENSE SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
TERMINAL AT ASMARA, ETHIOPIA

REFERENCE: USDAO 181100Z MAR 74

1. DOD HAS STRESSED TO DEPT URGENT REQUIREMENT TO SHIP
SATELLITE COMMUNICATION TERMINAL (TSC-54) AND OTHER
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PAGE 02 STATE 061002

EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL VIA FOUR C-141'S TO ASMARA

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AS PART OF DEFENSE'S WORLDWIDE SATELLITE COMMUNICATION MODIFICATION PROGRAM. THE TSC-54 IS IN SUPPORT OF MYSTIC STAR AND WILL SERVE AS RESTORAL TERMINAL WHILE PRESENT ON-SITE TERMINAL (MSC-46) IS BEING MODIFIED.

2. DOD HAB SCHEDULED SHIPMENT TERMINAL TO ASMARA ON ABOUT 4 MARCH; HOWEVER, CURRENT ETHIOPIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' STRIKE IS PREVENTING SHIPMENT. IN VIEW EARLIER DIALOGUE BETWEEN AIR FORCE AND DAO ON USE OF C-5A AIRCRAFT, DOD NOW BELIEVES THAT C-141'S WOULD BE BEST IN LIGHT OF APPREHENSION OF IEG CAA OFFICIALS REPORTED REFTEL. BECAUSE OF IMMINENT JUNE 30, 1974 PHASE-DOWN DATE OF ASMARA AND TAKEOVER OF RESIDUAL COMMUNICATIONS BY CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL, IT IS URGENT THAT EQUIPMENT ARRIVE IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO TRAIN AND FAMILIARIZE CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS PRIOR TO JUNE 30.

3. ADDITIONALLY, DELAY IN MOVING INTO ASMARA TERMINAL AND PERSONNEL TO PERFORM MODIFICATION IS COSTING APPROXIMATELY DOLS 7,000 A DAY IN DIRECT, NON-RECOVERABLE LABOR COSTS, AS RESULT INABILITY OF MODIFICATION CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL TO WORK. ALSO, DELAY WILL CAUSE RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT BECAUSE OF NEED TO EXTEND COMPLETION DATE. DOD HAS INFORMED DEPT IT HAS CONSIDERED OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DELIVERY AND HAS DETERMINED NONE IS FEASIBLE.

4. REALIZE ASMARA AIRPORT SITUATION UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF URGENT NEED FOR DOD TO COMMENCE SATELLITE TERMINAL MODIFICATION PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY, WE WISH INQUIRE WHETHER, IN SPITE OF LOCAL PROBLEMS RE AIRPORT AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS, EMBASSY MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO MAKE APPROACH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO SECURE COOPERATION OF ETHIOPIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' UNION IN PROVIDING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND OTHER NECESSARY SERVICES TO PERMIT MAC TO OPERATE THE FOUR C-141 FLIGHTS INTO ASMARA. REQUEST IMMEDIATELY IF THIS NOT FEASIBLE. RUSH

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